

LONG ISOGRAMS (PART 3)

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In the first two parts of this article, I have presented perfect specimens of isograms, pair isograms, trio isograms, etc. It is now time to present various specimens which, although flawed in one way or another, are still sufficiently meritorious to display to an eagerly-waiting world. These fall into two categories: near-isograms that fail to qualify by virtue of a single extra letter, and pair isograms in which certain letter-pairs are repeated.

Near-Isograms

The first list given below presents words of 16 or more letters with one letter appearing twice; the second list presents pair isograms marred by the appearance of an extra letter; and the third list, trio isograms having an extra letter.

VENTRICULOGRAPHY. X-ray photography of the brain.

DUTCH FLATS, NEW YORK. A rural locality in the northwestern part of Wyoming County, New York, near the larger community of Varysburg.

PAUL SMITHS, NEW YORK. A small community in the south-central part of Franklin County, New York.

BLACK THUNDER, WYOMING. An unpopulated community in Campbell County, in the northeastern part of Wyoming. This near-isogram is miraculous in using 18 different letters within a total of only 19 letters. It thereby surpasses the Websterian term azimuthal equidistant projection, which also includes 18 different letters, but among a total of 30 letters.

ANTIPERSPIRANTS. Cosmetic preparations used to check excessive perspiration.

OCTOINEFFICIENT. Inefficient in eight different ways.

PAINTED TERRAPIN. A common fresh-water turtle of the eastern United States.

PLICAE POLONICAE. States of the hair on one's head in which it becomes twisted, matted, and crusted.

TROPICAL APRICOT. The fruit of the mammee, a tropical American tree.

*YONKERS, NEW YORK'S. The possessive or genitive form of Yonkers, New York. Yonkers is a northern residential suburb of New York City. References to it must initially include the specification New York because there is another Yonkers near the northern border of Wagoner County, Oklahoma.

ABLE-BODIED SAILORS. Able-bodied seamen. Webster's Third Edi-

tion defines an able-bodied seaman as one intermediate between an ordinary seaman and a leading seaman, and equates seaman with sailor.

EPICONCEPTIONISTS. Adherents to a philosophy arising from and ranked above or beside the philosophy asserting that universals exist in the mind and may properly be affirmed of reality.

A BROCKTON BANK TELLER. A teller in any of the banks in Brockton, an industrial city 19 miles south of Boston, Massachusetts.

ANTIANTHROPOMORPHISMS. Varying forms of opposition to the ascription of human characteristics to things not human.

*MYELOPATHIC POLYCYTHEMIA. A rare disease marked by a great increase in red blood corpuscles and frequently associated with signs of bone-marrow hyperactivity and with disturbances of the central nervous system. One of the principles governing modern medicine states that, the rarer the disease, the more names it must have. In keeping with this principle, the term myelopathic polycythemia has at least 15 exact synonyms: cryptogenic polycythemia; erythremia; erythrocythemia; erythrocytosis; erythrocytosis megalosplenica; Osler's disease; polycythemia cyanotica; polycythemia rubra; polycythemia vera; polycythemia vera cum splenomegalia; primary polycythemia; splenomegalic polycythemia; Vaquez' disease; Vaquez-Osler disease; and Vaquez's disease.

*MONIMOLIMNION. This word was defined in Part 2 as the lower, denser, and noncirculating layer of a lake undergoing incomplete circulation at the fall overturn. It is found in the Oxford English Dictionary Supplement.

INTRATRINITARIAN. Within or among a group of Trinitarians, supporters of the Christian doctrine of the Trinity.

Pair and trio near-isograms preceded by an asterisk can be found in standard reference works.

Pair Isograms: Repeated Pairs

16-Letter Examples

A DATA ANTECEDENCE. The condition in which the receipt of certain data precedes that of other data.

A MACROCOFFEEROOM. A very large coffeeroom. For use of the combining form macro-, compare macrocontract (very large contract).

DECACANDESCENCES. Radioactive luminescences of tenfold strength.

DOROTHÉE THEODORE. An English name, eminently suitable for any woman contemplating a legal name change.

NEAR ACCRESCENCES. Simulated accretions or growths approximating genuine ones.

NONINSTALLATIONS. Failures to install contractually agreed-upon appliances or facilities.

NONINTERSECTIONS. Failures to interpolate or to insert something.

ONCORECRESCENCES. New growths of a tumorlike nature.

REGNIGRESCENCES. A figurative term for processes rendering kings dark or black - that is, evil or sinister.

SAFE FLANNELETTES. Cotton fabrics napped on one side, safe for use in children's wear (free of toxic substances, highly fire-resistant, etc.).

SPIRITED RIPTIDES. Vigorous tides flowing against each other and causing a violent disturbance in the sea.

*UNPROSPEROUSNESS. Want of good fortune or successful progress.

18-Letter Examples

ACATECCLESIASTICAL. Not against the organized church. For use of the prefix combination, compare acatalectic (a verse with a complete number of syllables).

ARGENTINE TANGERINE. A tangerine grown in Argentina, possibly in a private orchard. Compare dictionary terms such as Mexican persimmon, Brazilian guava, and Chilean strawberry.

CHRISTINA CHRISTIAN. An English name singularly appropriate for the heroine of a religious novel. Unfortunately, it comes perilously close to being a tautonym.

COINCONSISTENTNESS. Want of agreement or uniformity, jointly with someone or something else.

DISHONEST HEDONISTS. Those who live for pleasure but pretend not to be what they actually are.

LECANOCOALESCENCES. Conditions, as those of extreme heat, under which (metallic) dishes and pans fuse or unite.

LORN EFFLORESCENCES. Forms of blossoming or flowering abandoned or lost in the course of further evolution.

MARGELET'S TELEGRAMS. Those with which she has been bombarding you, asking you to rush her lots of money. Margelet is a variant or diminutive of Margaret. This isogram comes dangerously close to being a palindrome.

NO EX-ANNEXATIONISTS. The absence of those who formerly favored annexation. Note the double X.

ODONTORETROCEDENCE. The recession or backward movement of teeth: an abnormal condition requiring treatment.

ORION'S REVIVESCENCE. The process of bringing Orion, the hunter in Greek mythology slain by the goddess Artemis, back to life, at the cost of one of our constellations.

SUPERSUBBOOKKEEPER. A bookkeeper, subordinate to a head bookkeeper, whose job performance is superlative. Note the four consecutive pairs of like letters.

*TALLASSEE, TENNESSEE. A village on the southern border of Blount County, Tennessee, 15 miles south-southwest of Alcoa.

VERSATILE RELATIVES. Those turning with ease from one thing to another.

20-Letter Examples

A READING-READINESS AGE. An age, whether chronological or mental, at which young children first show readiness to begin learning how to read: another useful pedagogic concept.

COEVAL CONVALESCENCES. Contemporary recoveries from illness: those taking place during the same age.

PERSISTENT PRETTINESS. A comeliness or beauty that defies the ravages of time.

SIN UNCONSCIOUSNESSES. The mental states of Adam and Eve before they ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden.

22-Letter Examples

ANTIUNOSTENTATIOUSNESS. Opposition to a quiet, restrained taste or to its exercise.

ETIOTHERMESTHESIMETER. An instrument for testing a patient's sensitiveness to heat, used specifically to help determine the cause of his or her symptoms of illness.

PHOROPHOTOSPECTROSCOPE. An instrument for recording the spectra of moving objects by means of photography.

SEAGIRT UNUNDERSTANDING. Seriously deficient comprehension and judgment, fostered by an isolated land location - American pre-World War II political isolationism, for example.

24-Letter Example

SUPERSUPERABUNDANCE CUBED. Overwhelming abundance. Note that supersuperabundance is a dictionary word. If we regard supersuperabundance as doubling mere abundance, then supersuperabundance triples it, and prefixing a third super- would raise the original abundance to the fourth power. By contrast, cubing supersuperabundance raises abundance to the ninth power - an extraordinary potentiation!

26-Letter Examples

ANTI-INTRADISINTERESTEDNESS. Opposition to the lack of interest (for something) displayed within some group's membership. This isogram duplicates 5 of its 8 different letter pairs, thereby beginning to approach a tetrad isogram.

ANTIMINISTERIALIST MATERIAL. Political propaganda tracts and pamphlets opposing the party in power.

ANTISUPERNATURALIST STAPLES. The tedious claims of science to the effect that it is impossible to believe accounts of supernatural events merely because they never occur under scientifically controlled and tested conditions.

DORMANT ANTIADMINISTRATIONS. The antipapal administration of the Roman Catholic church. The most recent of the 39 historical antipopes, a certain Felix V (actually, Amadeus VIII, Count of Savoy, 1381-1451), ended his reign in 1449. Although 536 years have passed without another antipope, the antipapal administrations are only lying dormant, waiting for the right moment to rise again.

28-Letter Example

A MORE MEROVINGIAN VIRGINIAN AIR. An intellectual climate more like that associated with the first Frankish dynasty in Gaul, spanning the third quarter of the first millennium of the Christian, Vulgar, or Common Era, than is the intellectual climate currently prevailing in the State of Virginia. Penetration of the Old Dominion by Merovingian thought is widely being predicted for a scant decade hence!

The two examples preceded by asterisks can be found in standard reference works.